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1977
ASCS
ANNUAL REPORT
FRANKLIN COUNTY

Louisburg, N. C. 27549
Telephone 496-3121



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION
AND
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

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FOREWARD

The Franklin County ASCS Office presents this annual report of its activities and accomplishments for 1977. This information gives a brief resume of the benefits every American receives either directly or indirectly from farm programs administered through ASCS. These programs provide the framework for a sound and balanced agricultural economy.

This report may be used as a good reference anytime you need information about farm programs administered in Franklin County.



ADMINISTRATIVE

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, administers various programs by means of farmer committees in the broad fields of production adjustment, soil, water, and forest conservation assistance, and price and market stabilization.

The State ASC Committee, comprised of five farmer members, is appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. The State Committee makes policy determinations at the State level and appoints a State Executive Director who is in charge of the day to day operations. Each year Franklin County farmers elect three farmers to serve as community committeemen in each of the ten ASC communities in the county. The community committee elect three farmers to serve on the county committee. The county committee determines ASCS policy in the county. They appoint a County Executive Director to carry out the day to day operations. Counties in the state are divided into nine administrative districts. A District Director supervises county office operations in each of these districts.

The total gross administrative expenditures of the county committee for the 1977 fiscal year were \$137,028.53.

STATE ASC COMMITTEE

R. W. Wilkins, Jr., Chairman
J. W. Hall C. L. McLawhorn
L. W. Holley Z. H. Ponder

STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

C. P. Stewart

DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Max H. Cornwell

COUNTY ASC COMMITTEE

Bennie R. Gupton-----Chairman
Bennie B. Williams-----Vice-Chairman
Maynard G. Baker-----Regular Member

COMMUNITY ASC COMMITTEE

A-Cedar Rock

R. S. May
O. T. Fisher
Steven Nelms

F-Harris

Horace W. Baker
John B. Arnold
W.R. Richards, Jr.

B-Cypress Creek

Thomas Gay
Charles Bass
George Murray

G-Hayesville

W. E. Aycock
Maynard S. Wilson
Richard G. Ayscue

C-Dunn

O'Deyne Mullen
H. K. Baker
John Vollmer

H-Louisburg

Wilbur Southall
Thomas Perdue
Walter Ball

D-Franklinton

Larry Wilder
R. W. Pace, Jr.
J. E. Wright

J-Sandy Creek

H. T. Edwards
J. C. Tharrington
O. F. Tharrington

E-Goldmine

Henry Nelms
Billy Wood
Kirby Gupton

K-Youngsville

Maryland M. Holmes
John R. Hill, Jr.
R. S. Keith

OFFICE PERSONNEL

John R. Davis-----County Executive Director
Dorothy W. Clay-----Chief Program Assistant
Mildred M. Bobbitt--Counter Program Assist.
Diana B. Cannady-----Program Assistant
Ruby F. Abbott-----Program Assistant
Dahlia H. Duke-----Program Assistant
Jane J. Williams-----Program Assistant
Sue C. Tharrington-----Program Assistant
Willie J. Highsmith-----Custodian

TEMPORARY OFFICE EMPLOYEE

Frances Jones

TOBACCO MARKETING RECORDERS

Robert Allen

Christine E. Burnette

FIELD EMPLOYEES

John T. Becton
Billy Brewer
Bill Collins
Wilton Faulkner
Bennie Griffin
Daniel Inscoe
Thomas Leonard
Dexter Marshall

Rodney Marshall
Raymond Mize
Jonathan Phillips
Neal Sherrod
Richard Turner
Edgar Wilson
Darrel Wood
Jimmy Wright

1977 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The 1977 Agricultural Conservation Program provided cost-sharing for practices which resulted in maximum conservation benefits. Conservation measures also enhance the quality of the environment in rural areas, control agricultural related pollution, preserve and restore our natural wildlife population. Annual and long term agreements help solve current as well as long range conservation problems. Special emphasis are placed on forestry practices through ACP cost-sharing and the Forestry Incentive Program.

Federal cost-sharing assistance was offered for carrying out practices under the 1977 ACP not to exceed \$2500 per person.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Assistance</u>
Permanent		
Pasture-----	141 acres	\$ 5,132
Pasture Im-		
provement-----	267 acres	\$ 5,837
Water Impound-		
ment Reser-		
voirs -----	52 ponds	\$ 18,683
Sediment, Chem-		
ical Runoff		
Control Meas.---	18 farms	\$ 4,839
Application of		
lime -----	307 acres	\$ 3,922
Cover Crops -----	1586 acres	\$ 6,342
SCI Disbursed		\$ 1,700
TOTAL -----		\$ 46,455

1977 DROUGHT & FLOOD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

As a result of extensive dry weather conditions that prevailed during 1977, the DFPC, Drought & Flood Conservation Program was activated to provide assistance to improve and establish vegetative cover in Franklin County. Assistance paid is as follows:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Assistance</u>
Pasture Improvement -----	524	\$17,738
Pasture Re-establishment -----	214	\$10,817
Interim Cover -----	1270	<u>\$ 6,351</u>
	TOTAL-----	\$34,906

1977 FORESTRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Under the Forestry Incentive Program cost-sharing assistance was offered at 60% of cost not to exceed \$10,000 per person.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Assistance</u>
Planting Trees	1001	\$45,990

THE AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

ACT OF 1973

This Act established a four year program which embraced the "target price" concept. An escalator clause was included for 1976 and 1977 crops in order to adjust the target prices to reflect changes in the cost of production. 1977 prices were as follows: Corn - \$1.70 per bushel, Wheat - \$2.47 per bushel, Barley - \$1.39 per bushel and Cotton - .4780 cents per pound.

The Act provided two types of direct payments for farmers: (1) deficiency payments, and (2) disaster payments. Deficiency payments are made when the average price received by farmers during the first five months of the marketing year falls below the target price established for a commodity. Disaster payments are made to feed grain, wheat, and cotton producers to help offset crop losses due to natural disaster or to other causes beyond the farmers control. Following is a summary of disaster and deficiency program payments.

FEED GRAIN SUMMARY

No. farms with allotments -----	2430
Total allotment (acres)-----	16826.9
No. disaster payments-----	1260
Amount of disaster payments----	\$ 431,859.63
No. deficiency payments -----	42
Amount of deficiency payments--	\$ 6,121.68

WHEAT SUMMARY

No. farms with allotments-----	1560
Total allotment (acres)-----	7747.2
No. disaster payments-----	6
Amount of disaster payments----	\$ 5,361.64
No. deficiency payments-----	1619
Amount of deficiency payments--	\$ 100,913.21

COTTON SUMMARY

No. farms with allotments-----	2179
County original allotment (acres)	6214.8
No. farms releasing acreage-----	1682
Acreage released-----	4715.3
Acreage planted-----	356.2
No. disaster payments-----	8
Amount of disaster payments-----	\$ 1,955.70

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Flue-cured tobacco is the number one cash crop in Franklin County. The acreage-poundage program has been in effect since 1965. Each year the Secretary makes an estimate of the amount of tobacco that will be utilized and exported during the year and adjusts quotas upward or downward by the amount needed to bring production in balance with demand. Under this program, if the marketings from a farm are less than the poundage quota for the farm, the difference is added to the farm's quota (both acres and pounds) for the following year.

Price support was carried out through loans made available by the Flue-cured Tobacco Stabilization Corporation. The loan level for the 1977 crop of flue-cured tobacco was \$0.85 per pound.

TOBACCO SUMMARY

No. farms with allotments-----	2703
County basic allotment-----	9565.06
County effective allotment-----	9877.01
County effective quota (pounds)-	16,077,442
Pounds marketed -----	15,552,906
Pounds undermarketed-----	554,536

TOBACCO LEASE AND TRANSFER PROGRAM

The lease and transfer of tobacco poundage within the county continued in effect for 1977 and the growers were permitted to transfer poundage by lease through November 30th.

A total of 1653 lease agreements were filed transferring 5,882,627 pounds between farms in the county.

TOBACCO WAREHOUSE DESIGNATION PROGRAM

The Tobacco Warehouse Designation Program was new for 1974 and has continued in effect since that time. It was the tobacco farmers first opportunity to designate the warehouse (s) at which they would market their tobacco crops. To be eligible for price support farmers had to visit the County ASCS Office prior to the beginning of the marketing season and select warehouse (s) within a 100 mile radius of Louisburg at which they agreed to market their crop. Those who failed to designate during the initial period were permitted to designate during the redesignation periods when farmers were allowed to change warehouses.

The purpose of the program was to allow more orderly marketing and reduce congestion at warehouses. A majority of the farmers expressed approval of the program.

A total of 2278 designation forms were prepared during the 1977 marketing season.

RECONSTITUTIONS

A reconstitution occurs when the identity of a farm is changed as the result of a combination or division. This action may be initiated by the county committee, the farm owner, or the operator of the farm affected by the proposed action.

We are required to reconstitute a farm when the following conditions exists:

1. A change occurs in the operation to the extent that the land no longer meets the requirements of a farm.
2. An owner requests in writing that his land no longer be included in a multiple-ownership farm.
3. The farm was not properly constituted under the procedure in effect at the time the farm was last constituted or reconstituted.
4. The county committee determines that the farm was reconstituted on the basis of false information furnished by the owner or farm operator.
5. The county committee determines that the tracts of land included on a farm are not being operated in accordance with conditions under which the tracts were combined or divided.
6. All land owned by one person and operated by one person is not in combination but meets the definition of a farm.

Farms are divided or combined as soon as it is determined that the land areas are not properly constituted. Reconstitutions are based to the extent practical, on facts and conditions existing at the time the change requiring the reconstitution occurs. There were 163 reconstitutions in Franklin County for 1977.

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RECONSTITUTIONS (cont.)

5 farms were transferred to this county from adjoining counties during 1977, and 8 farms were transferred out of the county. The transfer of farms between counties is permitted if the operator and/or land owner requests that a farm located in one county be combined with land operated by the same operator in another county and the county committees determine that the land should be constituted as one farm under current regulations.

C O M P L I A N C E

The certification method of determining compliance was used in 1977. The planted acreages and land uses for all cropland was reported by the farm operators. Farms were selected at random and spot-checked to determine the accuracy of the report. The number of farm visits made by commodity are as follows:

TOBACCO	-----	277
COTTON	-----	23
WHEAT	-----	111
CORN	-----	967
GRAIN SORGHUM	-----	126
BARLEY	-----	41
ACP	-----	23
DCP	-----	18
NON-QUOTA TOBACCO	-----	18

FARM STORED COMMODITY LOANS

The Price Support Program offers a means for farmers to hold their products off the market at harvest, store them, secure a loan, and sell when prices are more advantageous.

Price support loans were made to two farmers in 1977 for storage of 66,000 pounds of wheat in the amount of \$14,454.00. The interest rate on these loans was 6%.

EMERGENCY FEED PROGRAM

The Emergency Feed Program was continued during 1977 because adverse weather prevented the production of adequate feed grains. Eligible livestock producers were paid one-half the cost of feed purchased not to exceed 0.02 per pound. This payment was based on the feed grain value in the feed purchased by the farmer.

The following data summarizes the participation in the Emergency Feed Program for 1977:

No. applications approved-----	128
Pounds of feed assistance approved--	7014388
Pounds of feed assistance paid-----	4497431
Total Assistance paid-----	\$ 88,940.80

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The purpose of the Farm Storage & Facility Loan Program is to enable producers to obtain loans on grain bins and drying equipment. Loans may be made to cover 85% of the purchase and erection costs. Loans are for a 8 year period with 7 equal annual repayments. Variable interest rates of 9.375, 6.125, 7.5, and 7.0 were applicable in 1977.

BEEKEEPER INDEMNITY PROGRAM

The Agricultural Act of 1970 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to indemnify beekeepers who through no fault of their own suffered loss of honey bees as a result of the use of pesticides.

To be eligible for payment if damage occurred, a report had to be filed with the county ASCS office within three days, and an inspection made.

Under this program a producer was asked to file a report as to the number and location of colonies.

In 1977 payment was made to one applicant for bee losses which amounted to \$5250.

COUNTY USDA EMERGENCY BOARD

By executive order of the President, the Secretary of Agriculture has put into effect defense services to protect farmers, their families, their livestock, and their agricultural productivity in event of a national emergency. The wide scope of these services enables them to function at all levels--national, state, county and farm.

The USDA County Emergency Board is composed of key USDA representatives in the county. The County Executive Director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service serves as chairman. Other board members include representatives of Cooperative Extension Service, the Farmers Home Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service.

Following are the Franklin County Emergency Board members and their responsibilities:

John R. Davis, Chairman, ASCS - is responsible for food production programs and sees that guidance is available in emergency farming practices and in conserving farm equipment.

W. U. Smith, Deputy Chairman, SCS - will advise and assist in the proper use of land and water.

Thomas Marshall, Member, FHA - will help the farmer in credit problems that may arise.

C. T. Dean, Jr., Member, CES - will provide education on survival practices and family, and his livestock.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

The County ASCS Office performs other duties assigned to it by the Secretary of Agriculture from time to time, such as surveys, reports, and emergency programs. We also try to keep committeemen and farmers informed properly on all phases of the programs administered by ASCS through newsletters, newspaper articles, radio programs, letters and personal contacts.

Meetings were held during the year with community committeemen, farmers, schools and civic groups.

In all our activities we strive to give the very best service possible to every person regardless of sex, race, color or creed.

CONCLUSION

The Franklin County ASCS Office is located in the Agricultural Building on East Nash Street in Louisburg along with the other Agricultural Agencies. We are very grateful to our county commissioners for providing good office space.

Our office is open each day, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. except for legal holidays.

We are federal employees administering farm programs designed for the people of Franklin County. A cordial invitation to visit us is extended to all persons whenever our services are needed. You may wish to telephone us, if so, the number is Louisburg, #496-3121.

We hope you have enjoyed reviewing our annual report.

